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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JANUARY 29-31, 2016 High -3°C/Low -4°C Sun and cloud

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Refugee kids make the most out of hotel life, while their parents plan for the future

A STORY IN PICTURES metroNEWS

Celery's stalk on the rise

PRODUCE

T.O.'s new costly vegetable kicks cauliflower off the top shelf

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Move over cauliflower — celery is the new expensive vegetable du jour.

Bunches of celery are selling for $4.99 in Toronto, up from the usual price of about $1.50.

"In the 24 years I've been in the industry, this is the most expensive I've seen it," said Mario Pugliese, produce buyer at Rabba Fine Foods.

Cauliflower sparked a national conversation earlier this month when it jumped to as much as $9 a head, prompting some Toronto restaurants to take it off the menu. While the sticker shock on cauliflower quickly cooled, the price of celery has been inching up right across the country.

The low loonie has caused the price of imported food to surge across the board, but Michael von Massow at the University of Guelph's Food Institute said the celery spike has more to do with weather than anything else.

A sudden bout of rain in California — likely the result of El Nino — has impacted supply. Other "localized, short-term weather events" have also driven up the prices of bell peppers and asparagus.

While the cauliflower crisis had customers talking, Pugliese said the high cost of celery hasn't elicited the same reaction.

"If it was a tomato or a head of lettuce, people would notice, but celery is something people can do without," he said.

Nevertheless, it's still selling.

"A lot of our customers eat really healthy and they're not going to switch to something frozen or in a can," a manager at Loblaw's on Queen's Quay said.

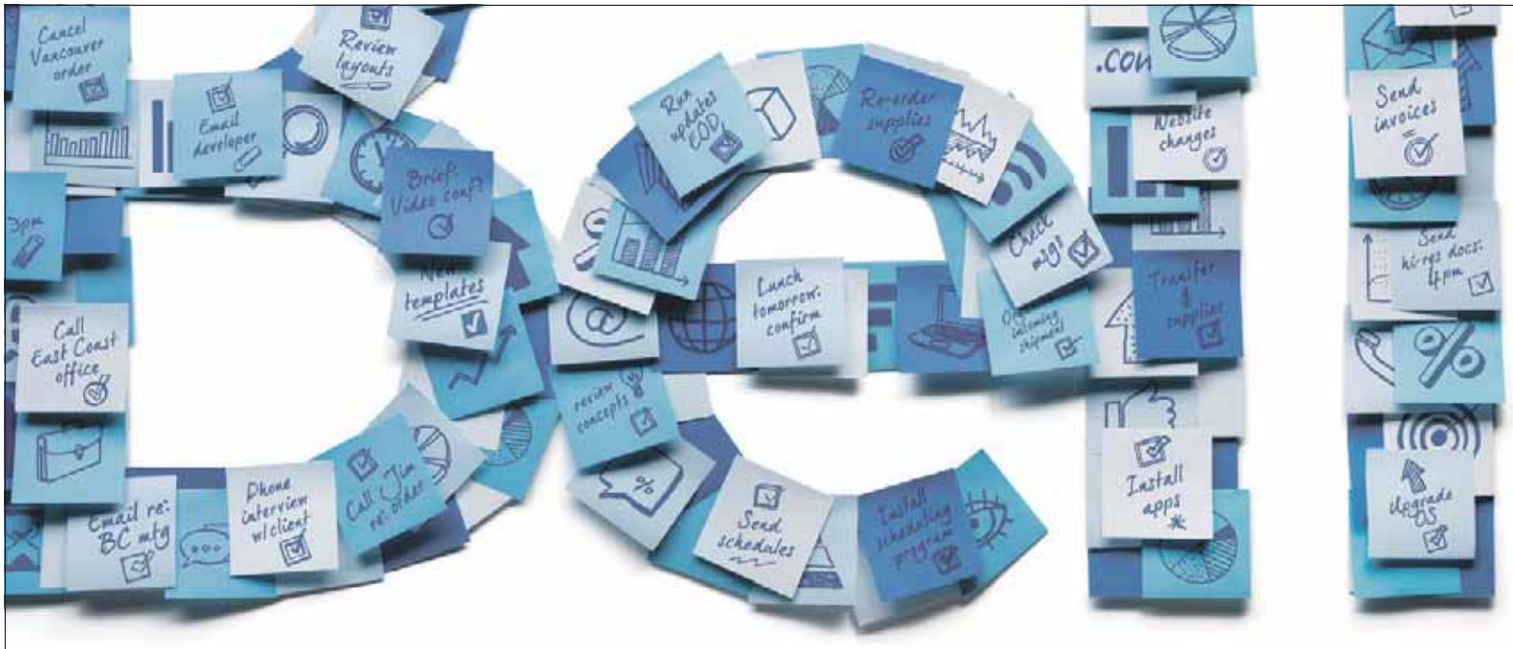
In addition to celery, Pugliese said the price of strawberries has also skyrocketed. In both cases, he doesn't expect the sticker shock to subside anytime soon.

"Honestly, it won't be until the American dollar eases up," he said. "That's when it will happen."

WHAT'S NEXT

According to Statistics Canada, grapefruit is positioned for a price surge. It was selling for nearly 25 per cent more than the previous year in the agency's latest price report.

#PRIDETAPE Should your hockey team rainbow-wrap their sticks? metroVIEWS



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Your essential daily news

Barbie's got three new bodies — curvy, tall and petite. **Business**

ALL-STAR GAME

Fans stung by halftime headliner

Call it the NBA's "De Do Do Do" to-do.

Sting was announced as halftime headliner for next month's Toronto-set NBA All-Star Game, instantly taking the breath away from bemused fans who gleefully mocked the selection of the 64-year-old soft-pop maestro for the Feb. 14 basketball pageant.

"Can't wait to watch Sting drop international party bangers like Fields of Gold, St Agnes and the Burning Train, and Shape of my Heart," quipped ex-Grantland writer Jason Concepcion on Twitter.

"Hope (Sting) brings out the whole NWO with him," joked star producer and frequent Drake collaborator Boi-1da.

That was one of many references to the facepainted pro wrestler of the same name, one of the more popular tropes as Twitter users stretched for new ways to mock the choice.

Even NBA players were forced to weigh in on Sting performing, though few did so with much zeal. "Oh, is he? I didn't know," murmured Raptors star DeMar DeRozan at shootaround. "I don't mind who performs. It could have been anybody."

Sting
GETTY IMAGES

It wasn't a choice made regionally. A representative for MLSE confirmed the halftime entertainment decision was driven by the NBA. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PHOTOS COURTESY LIGHT IMAGING

A marketing slam-dunk

RAPTORS

Player-designed hats selling for double the regular price

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

They're known for their on-court style. Now, the Toronto Raptors are offering fans a glimpse of their street style.

Players are putting their individual tastes out on the open market — challenged by team execs to design and create the sleek, style-forward hats showcasing the Raptors vibe.

If social media is any indication, the #SixBlackTO hat is the most popular by far. Designed by Pickering-born Cory Joseph along with DeMarre Carroll, Terrence Ross and Bruno Caboclo, the black wool cap with a leather visor features a maple leaf under the visor and a "6" inside.

The player-designed hats are one of the ways the Raptors — and other sports teams — are diversifying to keep merchandise fresh and help drive sales, said sports marketing expert Vijay Setlur, an instructor at York University.

"We are in a totally new era of athlete marketing," he said.

Today's fans are demanding authentic, one-of-a-kind items, Setlur said. Plus, it markets athletes themselves.

"Today's athletes want what they're involved in to mean something," he said. "That's how we now have players with their own trademarks. They're like mini-brands, like mini-empires."

For the Raptors, innovation in merchandising is working well, so far.

Earlier this week, the team was named the NBA Eastern Conference's retailer of the year for the 2014-15 season. Sales jumped 86 per cent, thanks largely to items produced for the team's 20th anniversary, its #WeTheNorth campaign and the collaboration with Drake's OVO collections.

There's both a business and player-development side to the team's new hat project, said Teresa Resch, vice-president of basketball operation.

"It's great to have them get their creative juices flowing," she said. "Any time a player does something himself, it makes it feel more real to the fans."

PROCEEDS

The four hats designed by Raptors players are selling for $80 to $100. Fifty per cent of the sales from player-designed hats go to MLSE Foundation, and the rest goes to a charity of the designers' choice.

1 **Patrick Patterson** wears the #HatStraightFire hat, which he designed with Bismack Biyombo, Luis Scola and Luca Nogueira.

2 **DeMar DeRozan** rocking the #BlackoutRaps hat. Norm Powell and James Johnson joined him for the design.

3 **Jonas Valanciunas** wears the #RetroGoldSwag hat, which he co-designed with Delon Wright, Anthony Bennett and Kyle Lowry.

4 **Cory Joseph** rocks one of the #SixBlackTO hats. He designed it with the help of DeMarre Carroll, Bruno Caboclo and Terrence Ross.

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Four officers face total of 17 charges

2014 DRUG BUST

Police chief says their prior cases will also be reviewed

Last fall, the conduct of a group of Toronto police officers was described by an Ontario judge as "egregiously wrongful."

On Thursday, their alleged behaviour was put in criminal terms: perjury and obstruction of justice.

Four officers — two of them experienced major-crimes investigators — are facing a total of 17 charges stemming from a 2014 drug bust, after which a judge ruled police had "fabricated" a story that involved "planting" heroin in a car to justify a search.

Soberly announcing the charges against his officers Thursday, Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders said there would be a review of the four officers' prior cases conducted by the force's professional standards unit and the Crown Attorney's office, "to see if there is any other cause of concern."

Const. Jeffrey Tout, Det.-Const. Fraser Douglas, Det.-Const. Benjamin Elliott and Const. Michael Taylor are scheduled to appear in court on March 11. All are from downtown Toronto police divisions, and range in experience from nine to 17 years with Toronto police.

The officers were arrested at 7 a.m. Thursday and have since been released. All are suspended with pay.

The charges come after Superior Court Justice Edward Morgan's ruling last September that the officers planted heroin in a man's car to justify a search and then "colluded" in their testimony in court.

Tout, Douglas, Elliott and Taylor all presented varying versions of the events during a traffic stop in January 2014, when Nguyen Son Tran was pulled over for allegedly running a red light near Gerrard St. and Broadview Ave.

The officers said Tran had a pile of loose heroin powder on the dashboard of his Toyota Camry, which led to a search of the car and the discovery of 11 grams of heroin. Morgan ruled that the heroin on the console was put there by police.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHARGED

- Const. Jeffrey Tout, 41.
  Years with force: 17.
  2014 salary: $101,856.
- Det.-Const. Benjamin George Elliot, 32
  Years with force: 9.
  2014 salary: $112,965.
- Const. Michael Kenneth Taylor, 34.
  Years with force: 11.
  2014 salary: $107,787.81.
- Const. Fraser Gordon Douglas, 37.
  Years with force: 14.
  2014 salary: $108,951.01.

EL MOCAMBO

Iconic sign getting makeover

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

At one of Toronto's most storied music venues, there's a light that will never go out.

Crews removed the iconic El Mocambo sign at College and Spadina this week. But don't worry: it's coming back.

The sign has been moved temporarily to Pride Sign's facility in Cambridge, where it will be refurbished ahead of the club's re-opening.

"The love that Torontonians hold in their hearts for this Spadina landmark was very apparent during the removal," said Pride Signs' Matt Auclair. "Passersby were reassured that their beloved sign will be back to light up the city once again after a much needed makeover."

The plan is to restore the sign to its "original brilliance" with new neon and LED lights, Auclair said.

The El Mocambo — or "El Mo" to its regulars — was a fixture of Toronto's live music scene for decades after opening in 1948. Up and coming acts like Elvis Costello and U2 played there in the 1970s and the Rolling Stones famously took over the venue for two nights in 1977.

The venue was slated to close in 2014, but Bay Street investor and Dragon's Den star Michael Wekerle stepped in to save it.

Wekerle reportedly paid a cool $3.78 million for the club, and plans to re-open it as a live venue in the near future.

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Never fear, **the El Mocambo sign** you know and love will soon be back with even more brilliance. CONTRIBUTED

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Housing wait tough on refugees

Inside the Toronto Plaza hotel, kids play soccer in the halls as parents plan for a future in Canada. The hotel near highways 400 and 401 is a temporary home for about 600 government-sponsored Syrian refugees. It's one of five Toronto hotels where refugees have been waiting for weeks as they're matched with housing. Asked about their hopes, the parents talked about their kids' futures. Asked about their fears, they said their top concern is finding housing they can afford.

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Smiling

Hamza, 12, left, and Abdulrahman, 14, third from left, gathered their friends around the camera, each trying to outdo one another with their poses. Many of their parents say that they came here for their children, and they're concerned about delaying their enrolment in school any longer.

Working

COSTI Immigrant Services is the organization responsible for caring for the refugee families and setting them up with housing accommodations. They have a temporary office inside the hotel, but many families have complaints, including bad food and cramped living conditions. COSTI's leadership says it's doing the best it can to keep up with their concerns.

Grateful

Everyone speaks about being grateful to be in Canada — and say any complaints they have about the hotel are secondary to that. Some say they're particularly thankful for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who, one man said, is known for his words and gestures concerning the Syrian refugees.

Waiting

Waiting is the hardest part. There's very little to occupy people's time. Since most don't speak English or have access to private transportation, it's hard or them to get out of the immediate area around the hotel.

Proud

Mohammed Al Tebawi arrived in Canada with his wife, Reem, and three kids on Dec. 27, three and a half years after they fled their home in southern Syria. Mohammed's frustration is rising as he waits and worries about being able to find an apartment he can afford on a government subsidy. He is, however, incredibly grateful to be in Canada, which makes him feel pride he describes as "a crown on (his) head."

Playing

Soccer is the kids' game of choice when they have energy to burn. Cooped up in a hotel, they play in corridors and in an empty ballroom. It's all wonderful — even when a ball goes flying down the hall — just missing a mirror on the wall.

Saving

Ahmed Al Kafri and his wife, Baraa Abdul Karim, arrived at the hotel on Dec. 28 with their three children. They're saving money to pay first and last month's rent, but their children won't eat the food provided at the hotel — so they have to spend a little extra money to stock their room with olives, pita and other treats similar to the ones they were used to eating at home.

ALL PHOTOS: LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Legal pot could reap $5B a year

TAXES

Economist's estimate based on curtailing illegal sales

Call it Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's secret stash.

A new report from CIBC World Markets says Canada's federal and provincial governments could reap as much as $5 billion annually in tax revenues from the sale of legal marijuana.

CIBC economist Avery Shenfeld crunched the numbers using current estimates of Canadian recreational pot consumption, the revenue experience in U.S. states that have legalized, and other factors — such as prevailing "sin tax" rates on alcohol and tobacco.

"The bottom line is that federal (and) provincial governments might reap as much as $5 billion from legalization, but only if all the underground sales are effectively curtailed," writes Shenfeld.

"That's on the order of 0.25 per cent of GDP, no barnburner."

The Liberal government has promised to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana and has made MP Bill Blair, the former Toronto police chief, the lead on investigating a new regulatory model.

Trudeau maintains that legalized pot will not be a cash cow, and that all revenues will be used to address mental health and addictions issues.

> **It was never about a money-maker, it was always about public health.** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

"It was never about a money-maker, it was always about public health, public safety," the prime minister said in December during a year-end interview.

The experience of Colorado and Washington states, where pot sales were legalized and taxed, suggests no dramatic increase in marijuana usage but a potential for pot tourism.

"The desirability of increased marijuana tourism inflows will be questioned, no doubt, but they would generate additional fiscal revenues for government on their other tourist spending," Shenfeld writes.

The report uses Colorado sales figures to estimate a Canadian pot market worth about $10 billion annually, then looks at net profit margins from Ontario's government booze monopoly and other associated income and payroll taxes to come up with the revenue total. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PATRICK SIMMS VIA FACEBOOK

Tory selfie

1 The nation's former PM, who's dropped off the political map following his electoral defeat, was spotted in the Calgary airport Wednesday. He took a minute to snap a selfie with a passerby who recognized him. Patrick Simms posted the photo to Facebook, saying he knocked (Harper's) phone out of his hand when going to shake it."

2 Harper is no stranger to selfies. While not as savvy as the current PM, he's still made the rounds on social media. In this shot from Jan. 30, Harper is pictured with Canada's women's water polo team.

KATRINA MONTON VIA TWITTER

WESTJET

Cellist 'outraged' by airline

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A renowned American cellist says he is "outraged" after hearing that WestJet refused to allow a musician's cello in the cabin during a flight from Vancouver, even though he bought an extra seat for it. Four years ago, Paul Katz says he got the same treatment.

"I get angry," he told Metro. "I just think WestJet is so indefensible, and their attitude is so cavalier. They're just so out of step with the whole airline industry."

Earlier this month, Juilliard School cellist Nathan Chan attempted to bring his cello onto a flight from Vancouver to Toronto but was refused. The 22-year-old bought his ticket through American Airlines, which allows passengers to buy an extra seat for a cello. When he arrived, however, the flight that was operated by Calgary-based WestJet forced him to leave the instrument behind with family and forfeit his $250 US ticket for the extra seat.

Cellist Paul Katz CONTRIBUTED

PRIVACY

Spy agency broke law

Canada's electronic spy agency broke privacy laws by sharing information about Canadians with foreign partners, says a federal watchdog.

The Communications Security Establishment passed along the information — known as metadata — to counterparts in the U.S., Britain, Australia and New Zealand, said Jean-Pierre Plouffe, who keeps an eye on the highly secretive agency.

Metadata is information associated with a communication — such as a phone number or email address — but not the message itself.

The CSE uses highly advanced technology to intercept, sort and analyze foreign communications for information of intelligence interest to the federal government.

In his annual report for 2014-15, completed last year but made public only Thursday, Plouffe said certain CSE metadata activities raised legal questions. In a statement, Plouffe said he has since concluded laws were broken. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Refugees to be accepted remains open question

Thousands of Canadians are trying to raise money to sponsor Syrian refugees but it remains an open question how many privately sponsored refugees Canada will accept. The program aims to bring 25,000 Syrians by the end of next month, with about 10,000 to be privately sponsored. But new data shows that by the middle of last December, the government didn't even have that many applications in hand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Health Secretary employee fumigates against mosquito Aedes Aegypti outside houses of Cali, Colombia, on January 28, 2015. LUIS ROBAYO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Zika virus spreading 'explosively': WHO

OUTBREAK

Health experts may declare international emergency

Declaring that the Zika virus is "spreading explosively," the World Health Organization announced it will hold an emergency meeting of independent experts Monday to decide if the outbreak should be declared an international health emergency.

At a special meeting Thursday in Geneva, WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said the virus — which has been linked to birth defects and neurological problems — was becoming much more of a threat. One WHO scientist said the Americas could see up to 4 million cases of Zika in the next year.

Chan said although there was no definitive proof that the Zika virus was responsible for a spike in the number of babies being born with abnormally small heads in Brazil, "the level of alarm is extremely high." She also noted a possible relationship between Zika infections and Guillain-Barre syndrome, which can cause temporary paralysis.

"The possible links, only recently suspected, have rapidly changed the risk profile of Zika from a mild threat to one of alarming proportions. The increased incidence of microcephaly is particularly alarming, as it places a heart-breaking burden on families and communities," Chan said.

The Zika virus was first detected in 1947 and for decades only caused mild disease, but Chan noted that "the situation today is dramatically different." According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the Zika virus is now in more than 20 countries, mostly in Central and South America. It is spread by the same mosquito that spreads dengue and yellow fever.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOD BAN

Canada adopts new donor restrictions in wake of virus

Canadian Blood Services will soon refuse blood donations from those who have travelled to countries where the Zika virus has become widespread.

Chief medical and scientific officer Dr. Dana Devine says the blood collection agency will decide in the next few days which travel destinations would be linked to a ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DISNEYLAND

Armed suspects detained

A man who tried to bring two handguns into a hotel at Disneyland Paris was detained Thursday along with his female partner, authorities said. No one was hurt in the incident, and the park remained open after the arrests.

The man, 28, was detained at the New York Hotel, part of the Disneyland complex. The man's motives for trying to enter the hotel with arms were unclear.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mumbai police a big hit on Twitter

Mumbai police are on a roll.

In the month since they debuted on Twitter, the police and its chief of police have been firing up a storm of pun-filled, witty warnings on abiding traffic rules, on women's safety and even on how to be safe online.

And on Wednesday, the police service's new anti-drug campaign went viral in a string of word play.

"If you roll, we will weed you out," read one tweet that was retweeted thousands of times. Then came: "Be a hero without 'heroin.'" A couple of hours later there was a cheeky question: "Hi! Have you 'meth' us?" with the hashtag #HoshMeinAao, which means wake up. One tweet had a picture of white powder on ground with the letters LSD and the message: "Let's Stop Drugs."

"Mumbai police account is giving Twitter standup comedians a good run for their money," said one user.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
$180 72 MONTHS	~~$21,888~~ $20,795 STK# 5SI0358L

2010 MATRIX

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
$137 60 MONTHS	$13,495 STK# 5RA7637L

2012 RAV4 SPORT

BI-WEEKLY	ALL IN PRICE
$129 84 MONTHS	~~$19,995~~ $17,495 STK# 5RA7874L

Some of the new Barbies introduced this month. The dolls now come in three new body types: tall, curvy and petite, and in seven skin tones, 22 eye colours. MATTEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barbies get new bodies

TOYS

Kudos from Canadians for curvy, tall and petite dolls

As a black woman raising her daughter through the mid-'80s and '90s, Samantha Kemp-Jackson found little variety among dolls when it came to different shapes, skin tones and abilities — especially with Barbies.

"It always made me a bit uncomfortable because as a woman and as a parent I thought: 'What is this teaching my daughter?'

With Mattel's announcement Thursday that its iconic plastic plaything will now include tall, curvy and petite body types, Kemp-Jackson joins other Canadians applauding the move by the toy manufacturer to better reflect diversity among females.

The new additions to the Barbie Fashionista doll range include seven skin tones, 22 eye colours and 24 hairstyles. The shift comes after years of criticism of Barbie for reinforcing unrealistic body proportions and beauty ideals for girls.

Michael Bach, CEO of the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, said he's excited at the prospect of giving a doll to his biracial niece who can "see herself in it."

Akram Sharkawy, brand communications marketing manager at Mattel, said the new dolls will be available at stores in Canada at the end of February. They can be ordered online at shop.mattel.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONEY MONITOR

Talk to kids about cash, experts say

Talking about money might not be considered the polite thing to do, but experts say when it comes to talking about money with children, the earlier the better.

Gary Rabbior, president and chief executive of the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, suggests children as young as three or four can start learning some of the basics about money.

One of the earliest and most important lessons children can learn is that every decision you make with money involves a trade-off.

"Part of the parenting dilemma which starts at a very young age is, how do you tell a kid they can't have everything they want?" Rabbior says.

> **Part of the parenting dilemma ... is how do you tell a kid they can't have everything they want?**
> Gary Rabbior

"When you buy something or make a decision about one thing, you're giving up the opportunity for something else and we really advocate that as one of the most early learning experiences because that concept of trade-offs helps kids understand they can't have everything they want."

Learning to distinguish the difference between needs and wants is a key lesson for children and even parents who may be struggling to stick to a household budget.

Natasha Nystrom of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada says once children start counting, it may be time to begin introducing some of the concepts about money, including the different coins and bills and what it means to spend them.

"If you're making your grocery list, you can involve them in that," says Nystrom, a spokeswoman for the agency.

"If you're looking at flyers to save money on some of the items on your grocery list, you can involve them so that they can help you cut out some of the coupons that might help you save some money."

Nystrom says an allowance can help kids learn how to save for a toy they want.

Rabbior urges parents to involve their children by making it hands on and interactive instead of trying to tell them something.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

McDonald's expanding its all-day breakfast menu

McDonald's is pushing its operational limits by testing the addition of another morning favourite to the all-day breakfast lineup: the McGriddle. It plans to start offering an expanded menu that adds McGriddle and biscuit sandwiches in 72 restaurants in Tulsa, Oklahoma starting Feb. 1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, January 29-31, 2016

METRO CALL TO ACTION

Rainbow-coloured #PrideTape

Somewhere over the rainbow, there will be progress in hockey. What if an inspiring show of inclusiveness by one NHL team became a national movement towards greater acceptance of LGBTQ people participating in team sports? Let's make it happen.

Sticking it to prejudice

Last week, the Edmonton Oilers rainbow-taped their hockey sticks for their annual skills competition, to show support for LGBTQ youth. The idea came from another Edmontonian — Kris Wells — who's created Pride Tape in an effort to make Canada's beloved sport a safer space for all who love the game.

Wells, a professor at the University of Alberta, notes there are still no out players in the NHL, and that for inclusiveness to sweep through hockey, the message has to come from the top.

"Change is going to take captains, coaches and community members stepping forward," Wells said. "Pride Tape says, without having to say the words, that 'I'm an ally.'"

A movement is made

Pride Tape is an initiative of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta, which has a Kickstarter campaign underway to make 10,000 rolls of the rainbow-coloured tape. The Oilers Community Foundation made an $8,000 donation to the campaign and players also had it on their sticks Sunday.

Oilers defenceman Andrew Ference and his team showed their support for Pride Tape on Sunday. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Hometown pride

The Toronto Maple Leafs were unaware of the tape when contacted by Metro, but it "sounds like a unique way to raise awareness and support," said Steve Keogh, director of media relations. The club supports efforts that promote inclusion, he said, noting the Leafs' involvement with Pride Toronto and the You Can Play project, which advocates for LGBTQ athletes.

We think all of Canada's pro and amateur hockey teams should get on board with Pride Tape. If you agree, share this story online and post on social media: #PrideTape

What reconciliation looks like in real life

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls on the federal government to close gaps in education, employment and health outcomes between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.

I've been thinking about how those gaps can be identified and closed. How to improve, concretely, the lives of indigenous people, with those communities' full participation, and with respect for their heritage, knowledge and right to self-government.

To get an idea of how this can be done, in a way that is guided by scientific evidence, look at Oklahoma.

That U.S. state is home to the Cherokee Nation, which suffers a disproportionately high rate of cancers related to tobacco use. The University of Oklahoma began working with the Cherokee to address this issue, and the National Institute of Health helped out to the tune of $1.5 million.

Cherokee people themselves will be monitoring cancer cases and their outcomes from the nation's in-house health-research office.

The general ideas are to find interventions to reduce cancer and help the office develop research capacity, but nothing is being decided by the university and dictated to the tribe, said Paul Spicer, an anthropologist and the lead researcher on the project. A joint committee — half Cherokee, half from the university — is setting the research agenda.

This is extremely exciting. It's ground-up, but still science-based. I can imagine a similar approach being used to address many issues, from early childhood education to the management of fish stocks.

It doesn't seem that hard. Why aren't we doing it in every indigenous community in Canada? I asked my friend Rebecca Benson, who is Haudenosaunee and a young professional with a deep understanding of the social problems in indigenous communities.

She was positive about research-based problem-solving, but she had a word of caution. We don't have a single indigenous community with anywhere near the population and clout of the Cherokee Nation's 300,000 people. Many, though not all, Canadian reserves are in a chronic state of crisis, she said. An ambitious collaborative science project isn't realistic when hunger is rampant and there's just been a cluster of youth suicides.

It seems to me that there aren't the human resources available, in many cases, to have a collaboration, Oklahoma-style, where the local indigenous people and scientists are on truly equal footing.

And when the majority of the researchers are not part of the community, the thorny issue of consent becomes all that much more important.

That's what Benson emphasized most: the need for indigenous groups to give their consent for research in their communities and on their lands. Not cursory, one-time consent, but continuous consent, with the option to withdraw if they decide the research isn't benefiting them.

There is participatory research going on in indigenous communities in Canada, but as reconciliation efforts begin in earnest and we try to close those gaps, there needs to be more. Because if we base policies on evidence, they have a shot of working.

Genna Buck is a science writer and a section editor at Metro. Follow her on Twitter @genna_buck.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview

Anger alone can't fix what ails La Loche. But it would help.

Not worth the money.

That's how Cindy Blackstock described the Canadian government's attitude toward indigenous children.

As the director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, she's been at the centre of a nine-year battle that culminated Tuesday with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's ruling that the federal government discriminates against indigenous children.

The tribunal found reserves receive 22 per cent to 34 per cent less child welfare funding than everyone else. It slammed the government over the high proportion of indigenous children in foster care (nearly half of those under 14 years old, according to the 2013 National Household Survey).

The ruling addresses a fraction of the scandal that is indigenous people's living conditions. There's a lack of clean water and quality housing; indigenous youth suicide rates are at least five times higher than the national average.

All these issues have surfaced in the media in the wake of the La Loche shooting, prompting concerns over negative, one-sided depictions of remote communities. La Loche's former mayor and current MP Georgina Jolibois said the town's social ills are not to blame for the shooting. "Unfortunately it had to happen here, but it is a Canadian experience," she said.

That may be true, but it's never a bad time to put a spotlight on systemic suffering, especially when it's of such a magnitude that Blackstock can credibly dub it "our Mississippi ... the same racial discrimination that we saw in the United States against African-Americans." In fact, she added, it's worse.

And I'd agree, in one way: While the U.S. has and continues to obsess over its racism, we are not getting nearly angry enough.

Take Flint, Michigan. Americans have been consumed by the story of the majority-black city's lead-poisoned water. No doubt some Hollywood director already smells Oscar bait. Meanwhile, our own unsafe-drinking-water scandal threatens to become an overlooked independent documentary.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is right to travel to La Loche today, because outrage over the deadliest school shooting in our history and its causes could easily fade to a whimper. As he does, Blackstock will be pushing for an estimated $200,000 yearly investment in on-the-ground change for indigenous kids.

It's an old story, this racism, as old as this country. So is America's, where the outrage burns far hotter.

Anger can't solve problems on its own. But nothing will change without it.

metro
Your essential daily news

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metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES TELEVISION

The Kung Fu Panda series of films are well-loved by audiences around the world. Inset: Kung Fu Panda 3 directors Jennifer Yuh Nelson and Alessandro Carloni. CONTRIBUTED

Riding the wave of Po-pularity

IN FOCUS

Directors love their star of Kung Fu Panda

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

It's all about Po, don't you know.

When I ask Kung Fu Panda 2 and 3 director Jennifer Yuh Nelson how she feels about being one of the highest grossing female directors of all time, she demurs and gives all the credit to her star.

"I think it is a testament to how much people like Po and like these films. There is such a huge fan base it is really flattering to have been helming something that huge."

Alessandro Carloni, her directing partner on Kung Fu Panda 3, adds, "I think it will be fair to assume this will be the highest grossing movie ever to be directed by a Korean woman and an Italian man."

For the uninitiated, Po is the clumsy giant panda that became an improbable hero, dumpling-eating champion and kung fu master in the first two movies. Voiced by Jack Black, in the new film he is reunited with his biological father Li Shan (Bryan Cranston) who takes his son back to the Panda Village so the youngster can learn about himself, become a Chi master and do battle with Kai, a supernatural bull villain played by Oscar winner J.K. Simmons.

Both directors have great affection for Po and understand why audiences have fallen in love with the character.

"We love how enthusiastic he is, how geeky he is, how much passion he has," says Alessandro. "One thing I have heard someone say is often there are movies where the side cast steals the show because they are the most fun while the central character is the straight guy. But we made a movie around a goofball and everybody else are the straight characters. He is the one who steals the show. When Po is on screen you will love him."

"He has got so much enthusiasm and is basically wishing for something that is bigger than him," says Yuh. "Something he is not able to achieve and yet he perseveres. That's why we root for him because we've been there. Everyone has been there where there is something you wish you could do but don't have the means to do it and yet you keep on going. You have to root for that."

The pair have been with Po for a long time. Yuh was head of story and the action sequence supervisor on Kung Fu Panda before taking over the reins for the second film. Carloni worked on the first film as animation supervisor and story artist on part two.

Their almost 10-year journey with Po has been shared with Jack Black, who was the model for the character.

"He's very unique in that he's so funny but underneath the funny he's got so much heart," says Yuh of Black.

"He's not somebody you laugh at, you laugh with him. You root for him and that is very rare. Usually you have these more jaded guys that are funny and you laugh at them when they fall on their face. But you feel bad for this guy when he falls on his face. I think that just leaks out of his performance."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Kung Fu Panda 3	★★★★
The Finest Hours	★★
JeruZalem	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

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MOVING FORWARD IN 2016

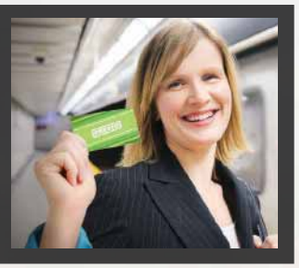
Here's a sneak peek at the year ahead from Metrolinx for you.

More GO Service on Track

We'll be improving GO Train and Bus services through several communities this year to give you more travel options than ever.

1.7 Million TTC Riders Can Pay with PRESTO

By year's end, there will be more than 10,000 electronic fare devices in TTC vehicles and subway stations, providing TTC riders a smart, new way to pay for transit.



GO Improvements keep GO-ing

Station improvements, more parking, new walkways and improved accessibility continue throughout the region. Watch out for the start of new construction at Mimico and Guildwood GO Stations.

vivaNext Digs in this Spring

The 12.4 km bus rapidway begins construction linking the Hwy. 7 west sections of Helen St. to Edgeley Blvd., and from Centre St. to Yonge St. on the existing Centre and Bathurst Viva route.

Phase 1 of vivaNext Hwy 7 West Starts Service

The BRT from Edgeley Blvd. to Bowes Rd. will be ready later this year, boasting new trees, plantings and home of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.

West Harbor Will Be Ready to GO

Hamilton GO riders - stay tuned for the final touches on the parking structure, new second track, pedestrian bridge, and bus loop.

Bike to School Week
May 30 to June 3

A celebration of cycling to school! Encourage your school to register at biketoschoolweek.ca to receive programming support, promotional materials, prizes and incentives.

Crosstown Tunnel Boring Hits the Finish Line and Construction Starts

It will be a happy retirement for our 4 "star" tunnel boring machines as they complete the east and west boring of the Crosstown tunnel. And through the year, new station construction begins along the line.

METROLINX

An agency of the Government of Ontario

In 2015, we completed major projects that brought you more service and an easier commute, celebrated several milestones in communities across the region, announced new funding for future growth, and welcomed the world to the Pan Am/ Parapan Am games.

2016 is equally exciting as we expand our GO footprint, rollout PRESTO on the TTC and continue planning, building and delivering innovative ways to give our communities more travel options than ever before. With the support of the Province of Ontario, our federal and municipal partners, and a network of passionate people, we'll continue finding ways to help you spend more time living and less time commuting.

New Homes for our Growing Bus Fleet

The new Hamilton and Aberfoyle Bus Service & Storage Facilities will enable GO Bus Services to store, fuel, and service our growing fleet of GO buses, making for more efficient and reliable service.

PRESTO Speeds Payment on TTC

PRESTO fare devices are being installed on all 1,800 TTC buses, including Wheel Trans buses, to get the bus fleet outfitted this year. Plus new, speedy, and accessible electronic faregates also go into testing at select TTC stations, ready to rollout by year-end.

More Places to Park & Ride

The Davis Dr./404 and Brock Rd./407 Park & Rides are ready to take their first passengers. Each location boasts parking spaces, heated shelters, payphones, and bike storage, in addition to the bus platforms.

Richmond Hill says Hello to Gormley GO

By year's end, the new Gormley GO Station is expected to open providing new service to northern Richmond Hill at Stouffville Rd.

Making New Tracks in Barrie

This year will see finishing touches on the new 6 km track which will boost service to Barrie starting early in 2017.

Try New Travel Choices in 2016

Make a pledge this year to explore all your travel options like public transit, walking, cycling, carpooling and teleworking. Visit SmartCommute.ca to find out how.

We're not done yet. Explore our plan to move the region forward at **metrolinx.com/moving forward**

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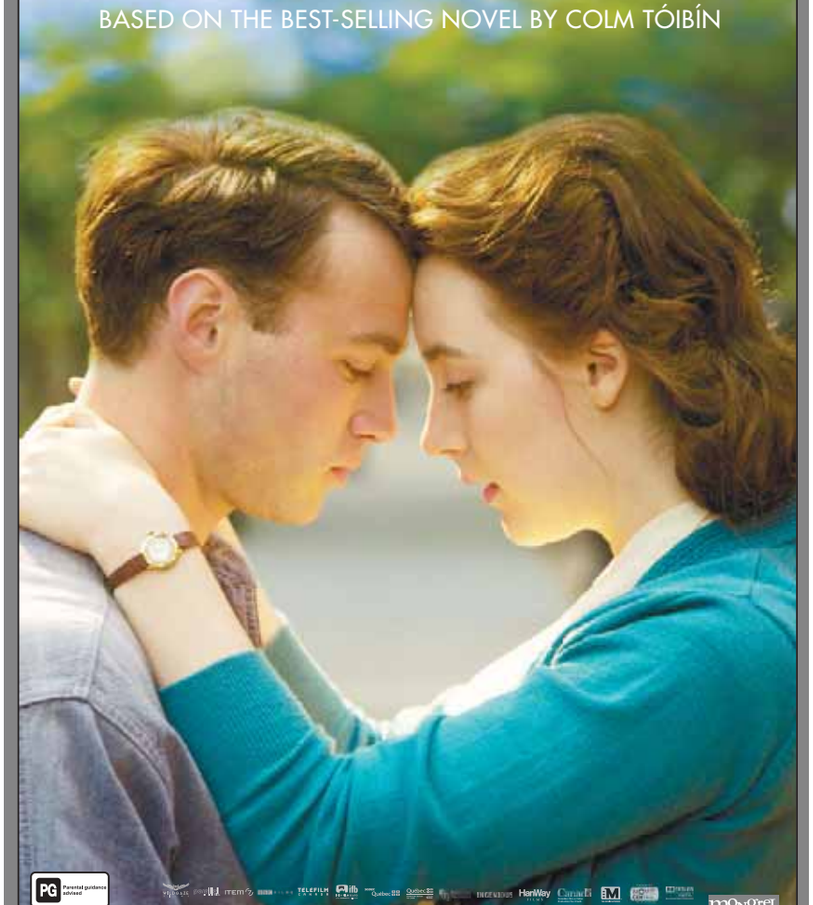

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Check theatre directories for showtimes

4 SUNDANCE FILMS ON MASS SHOOTINGS AND FIREARMS

Gun violence was on the minds of more than a few filmmakers this year — the ongoing issue was the main subject of four films at Sundance. Here's a look at how three docs and one movie tackle the subject of guns in America THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Newton

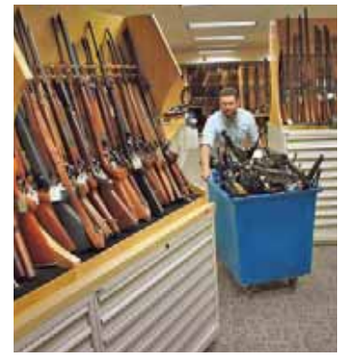
Director Kim Snyder goes deep into the community of Newtown, Conn., in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings where 20 children and six educators were murdered.

In her documentary, Snyder explores the lives of those affected by the tragedy — the parents of children who were killed, parents of children who survived, Sandy Hook teachers, local law enforcement, religious leaders, and even a volunteer EMT.

"I didn't really have any big agenda," Snyder said, other than showing the community truthfully.

"But, as (Sandy Hook parent) David Wheeler says, the people who have the most motivation to allow that intrusion of a camera are people who, as he said, feel compelled to say something or do something that might prevent another town or family from having to go through this."

2 Under the Gun



Katie Couric and director Stephanie Soechtig (Fed Up) returned to Sundance with a sweeping overview of guns in America —melding jaw-dropping stats (like how gun stores outnumber Starbucks and McDonald's combined in the U.S.), historical perspective (how the NRA used to stay out of politics), and emotional accounts from the families of the deceased (including mothers in Chicago and the brother of a girl killed in Aurora). They also speak to a variety of pro-gun advocates, from those who support background checks to those who scoff at the idea.

"Even people who've been immersed in this issue for years told us they learned some things from the film," Couric said. "I was surprised how the NRA's tentacles spread so far and how the organization has its fingerprints on so many things."

3 Dark Night

Dark Night is the sole narrative feature in the bunch, and deals with a mass shooting in a Florida suburb. The not-so-oblique title references the Aurora, Colo., massacre of 2012 during a midnight screening of The Dark Knight Rises.

"It starts with the massacre in Aurora," director Tim Sutton said. "There was something that happened to the movie theatre that day. The movie theatre became unsafe. It became corrupted, possibly forever. I felt as a filmmaker a responsibility to try to touch on this theme."

4 Speaking is Difficult

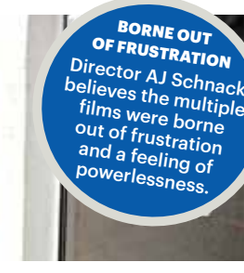
Speaking is Difficult may never be finished. The short documentary is a living film, meaning every time there is another mass shooting, director AJ Schnack and his team will update it. He'd submitted a rough cut of the film to Sundance months ago and had to update it twice since then as new events occurred.

Schnack's film shows the locations of the shootings, as they exist now, overlaid with 911 calls from the event.

"It's becoming almost a ritual where an event happens, there is a level of outrage for a few days and then as it gets further away it recedes and we go through it again," Schnack said. "The events were starting to become like echoes of previous events."

Schnack found the now-normalcy of the settings quite striking.

"A lot of the locations have returned to being the same place — a restaurant, a salon, a school," he said. "People walk past as if nothing has happened."



BORNE OUT OF FRUSTRATION
Director AJ Schnack believes the multiple films were borne out of frustration and a feeling of powerlessness.

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Director Mike Nichols' sharp wit and protean knowledge made him someone you'd want around your dinner table

Sometimes I imagine that there's an episode of Sex and the City I've never seen and one day I accidentally stumble upon it and oh, sweet joy!

This will never happen. But there are plenty of Mike Nichols films I've yet to experience, which I discovered after a sneak-peek viewing of an upcoming PBS American Masters episode dedicated to the director that premieres Friday.

"After this is over I think we should watch The Fortune," I suggested to Simon while we watched from the couch. "I've never seen it."

"I have," he said, "but I couldn't finish it — and you know how I feel about Warren Beatty."

"Remind me?"

"He's a comic genius. He can do no wrong," he said. "Except here."

"How about Carnal Knowledge then?"

"With Jack Nicholson? Always."

"Do you think Mike Nichols is considered an 'auteur'?" I asked.

"We do. I mean, you've written two columns on his movies [Primary Colors and The Birdcage] in less than a year," Simon said. "But I don't think everyone does. Maybe because we expect a recognizable visual language from auteurs but all of Nichols' works are so unique. The consistency in his films is that there's always a specific intelligence at work, which you come to appreciate when hearing him talk."

Which, once we stopped talking, the documentary allowed. There was plenty on his early life: how Nichols had few friends until he enrolled at the University of Chicago (he met Susan Sontag standing in line, not to mention Elaine May, who directed the American Masters episode); how he dropped out to study with Lee Strasberg; and how he and May became improv sensations with their satirical routines that audiences, including critics, adored.

THE SHOW: American Masters: Mike Nichols

THE MEAL: Smoked oysters and saltine crackers

Then came stage directing, which earned Nichols two Tony Awards by the age of 34. Film followed. His first two, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf ('67) and The Graduate ('68), earned him best director Academy Award nominations. (The latter is the only film for which he won.)

From all accounts, Nichols' sharp wit and protean knowledge made him someone you'd want around your dinner table, which reminded both me and Simon of my dad. Plus, they both get weepy when talking about Meryl Streep.

And they both love to eat: "Until he had his heart surgery and it changed his appetite, he was such a gourmet and gourmand," Candice Bergen told Vanity Fair in an incredible oral history published last September. "He just loved food and would drive miles and miles for obscure fried-oyster places on [Martha's] Vineyard, and then would drive from there to the best pizza place, and then would go home for lunch."

Coincidentally, we snacked on canned smoked oysters and saltine crackers while we watched May's American Masters tribute to her friend. They're less bon vivant and more proletarian, to be certain — but former Gourmet editor-in-chief Ruth Reichl, who I interviewed about a year after Nichols passed away in 2014 at the age of 83, told me the director "was one of the happiest eaters I ever met."

I think he would've approved.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIES BRIEF

Dominic West to play seductive cad onstage

Dominic West would like to be the next James Bond. But he's worried you think of him as a cad.

The British star of The Affair and The Wire nurtures a dream of playing 007, but in the meantime he's relishing the chance to be a smooth-talking sexual schemer onstage in Les Liaisons Dangereuses. West concedes with a laugh that Valmont is an "evil b—d"

But while he says he's "longing to play a nice hero," he knows the devil gets all the good lines.

The production at London's Donmar Warehouse was broadcast live in British and U.S. movie theatres Thursday, with repeat screenings around the world over the coming weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dominic West. GETTY IMAGES

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Holliday Grainger's finest accent yet

THE FINEST HOURS

Manchester actor adopts Massachusetts brogue in film

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Those only familiar with Holliday Grainger from her high profile appearance as the 1930s gangster Bonnie Parker in the much-hyped A&E miniseries Bonnie & Clyde could be forgiven for thinking she was born and raised on American soil. A perfect Texas drawl disguised her natural English accent.

"I'm from Manchester," she said in our recent sit down, "northwest England."

"Home of the Stone Roses," I replied, mentioning the Mancunian hit makers of Love Spreads.

"I'm a bit too young for that but it's a small town so the Stone Roses are never too far away," she replied with a wicked laugh.

This weekend the 27-year-old brings a new accent to the maritime drama The Finest Hours. She plays Massachusetts native Miriam, a bride-to-be anxiously awaiting the return of her Coast Guard fiancé (Chris Pine) from a life or death mission during a brutal New England nor'easter.

"I think I'm quite good at adopting accents," she says. "Once I started the Bonnie and Clyde Texas accent it was very easy. Within a day I was speaking in the accent all the time and I found it quite comfortable."

She was so secure with the twang she'd often keep the accent going even when not on camera. The Finest Hours presented more of a challenge.

"I found this much harder. I actually stayed in my own accent on set for the first week or two because I didn't feel comfortable enough in the accent to stay in it."

SPEAKING OF WHICH

It's likely Miriam didn't even have the usual regional accent. "She was brought up speaking Finnish," says Grainger. "So she didn't actually have the traditional accent but for the purposes of our movie we're not going to play around with that. It's too complicated."

To master the 1950s coastal Massachusetts brogue she worked with a dialect coach and tried, unsuccessfully, to get some real life input.

"I went to Chatham (Massachusetts) and spent an afternoon trying to record people but Chatham is now so affluent and touristy. I was going into bars and restaurants and talking to people. 'Where are you from? Oh, you're from New York. You've just moved here. Which pubs have young girls working in them who are from around here?' I'd go and record some of them and they'd sound like they were from bloody Manhattan. Like bloody Valley Girls or something. It was not like the 1950s accent I needed to hear."

Her character's real life daughter Patty ended up helping out, introducing Grainger to a contemporary of Miriam's who "had the right way of talking. The resonance."

The actress nailed the New England burr and then refined it during production.

"In the middle of shooting the producers would say, 'It's too strong, bring it back.' In my mind (I was thinking) has she been at work where she speaks quite well or is she angry? It's fluid. People change their accents all the time."

Ironically, after all that work it's likely Miriam didn't have the usual regional accent.

"In actual fact Miriam's first language wasn't even English," says Grainger "She was brought up speaking Finnish so she didn't actually have the traditional accent but for the purposes of our movie we're not going to play around with that. It's too complicated."

As for Grainger, who will next be seen starring opposite Alicia Vikander and Judi Dench in Tulip Fever, don't expect to hear her Mancunian lilt every time she opens her mouth.

"I change my accent all the time depending on whom I'm talking too," she says. "If anyone had to characterize me they'd be bloody lost."

Holliday Grainger, right, plays Miriam in Disney's The Finest Hours, a heroic action-thriller based on the extraordinary true story of the most daring rescue in the history of the Coast Guard. HANDOUT

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San Antonio's culinary Pearl

KATE HOBSON/FOR METRO

Gastronomical delights abound in San Antonio, like fresh croissants from Bakery Lorraine; toasted cauliflower with romesco from Supper; and fried snapper throats from Southerleigh.

HEADING SOUTH

Eat your way through this district jewel

Kate Hobson
For Metro Canada

Pearl District is a gem in the otherwise sprawling city of San Antonio, Texas, providing a cosy pocket where history, luxury and inviting fare come together. The once industrial area home to the Pearl Brewery has been restored and redeveloped into a thriving culinary hub now home to many chef-driven restaurants and the Culinary Institute of America. Situated along the northern reach of the San Antonio River, the transformed Pearl District entices both locals and visitors to the area.

Hotel Emma

A warm wood burning outdoor fireplace and friendly staff draw you in and welcome you on arrival at this beautifully restored space that is now Hotel Emma. The design centres around the philosophy of repurposing industrial space into an atmosphere that makes you feel at home while also paying tribute to the history of the location: The Pearl Brewery. This boutique hotel offers some intriguing amenities including a library, rooftop pool, a culinary concierge and an in-room "icebox" filled with farmers market treats and local libations.

Supper

Inspired by the idea of "supper," the unfussy menu is perfect for a gathering of friends for a light, informal evening meal. Vegetables and meat alike are smoked on the hickory grill for added depth of flavour. The salt and vinegar Brussels sprouts are caramelized and tender. The grilled beef 'Santa Maria' with fresh tomato parsley and garlic chimichurri is bright and flavourful. The perfect finish is the ricotta seada with a hint of fennel, pickled blackberries and sprinkled with refreshing bits of celery.

ON THE WEB
For more, information, head to visitsanantonio.com

Southerleigh

Southerleigh's menu is rich with fresh seafood. The fried snapper throats are a visually impressive dish stacked high on their colourful tray and these incredibly meaty and tender fish throats don't disappoint taste-wise. Their take on devilled eggs, topped with a hunk of bacon and onion marmalade, is sweet, savoury and addictive. Fourteen rotating small-batch craft beers are offered on tap — something to quench everybody's tastes.

Bakery Lorraine

Bright, airy and bustling with people, Bakery Lorraine is a popular brunch and breakfast spot. Sit and enjoy one of their breakfast sandwiches like the croque madame layered with ham, gruyere and a poached egg on grilled sourdough or take some delicious pastries and coffee to go. If you want to experience some nostalgia, try their housemade strawberry poptarts topped with macaroon crumbles.

Nao

Explore the cuisine and culture of Latin America at Nao Gastro Bar and enjoy signature dishes from a dozen different countries. At lunchtime you will experience unique twists on classic dishes that are the creations of the students of the Culinary Institute of America. In the evening professional staff take over and more Latin American cuisine ensues. The menu is frequently updated to reflect seasonally available items so you are sure to have something new, fresh, and exciting.

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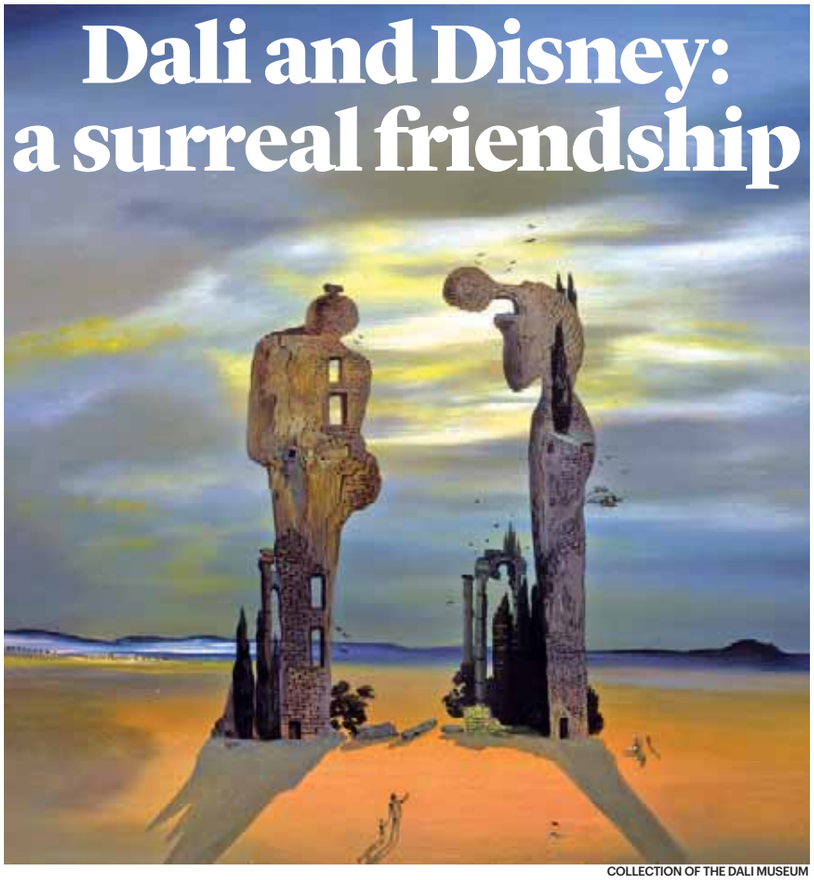
Dali and Disney: a surreal friendship



COLLECTION OF THE DALI MUSEUM

ST PETERSBURG, FLA.

New exhibit shows collab between artist and animator

Visitors to a new exhibition at The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla., won't just be looking at art. Thanks to virtual reality, they'll be exploring a Dali painting in a dreamy, three-dimensional world that turns art appreciation into an unforgettable, immersive experience.

The new exhibition, Disney and Dali: Architects of the Imagination, tells the story of the relationship between Salvador Dali, the surrealist artist, and Walt Disney, the great American animator and theme-park pioneer. But the museum exhibition's highlight comes after visitors have seen the Disney-Dali show's paintings, story sketches, correspondence, photos and other artifacts. As visitors leave the exhibition area, they'll be invited to don a headset to try the virtual reality experience.

Called Dreams of Dali, the VR experience takes viewers inside Dali's 1935 painting Archeological Reminiscence of Millet's Angelus. The painting depicts two towering stone figures along with tiny human figures in a bare landscape with a moody sky. Users can move around inside the painting, using Oculus Rift headsets to navigate a trippy three-dimensional environment that includes motifs from other Dali works like elephants, birds, ants and his Lobster Telephone sculpture. Accompanied by a haunting piano soundtrack punctuated by bird cries, the VR visuals also include a crescent moon, a stone tunnel and even an image of rocker Alice Cooper, whom Dali featured in a hologram he created in 1973.

Salvador Dali and Walt Disney in Spain in 1957. A new exhibition at The Dali Museum is dedicated to the relationship between the two men. DALI MUSEUM/WALT DISNEY FAMILY FOUNDATION/DISNEY

Disney and Dali met in the 1940s in Hollywood, according to museum director Hank Hine. "Their sensibilities were very connected," Hine said. "They wanted to take art off the palette, out of the canvas and into the world."

The exhibition looks at the castle motif that became a symbol of Disney parks, along with Dali's Dream of Venus pavilion from the 1939 World's Fair, which some consider a precursor of contemporary installation art.

Disney and Dali also collaborated on a short animated movie, Destino, that was eventually completed by Disney Studios. The six-minute movie, which can be found on YouTube, features a dancing girl with long dark hair, a sundial motif and a song with the line, "You came along out of a dream. ... You are my destino." Clips will be played within the gallery for the Disney-Dali exhibition and the full short will be shown at the museum's theatre.

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Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Milos Raonic's overnight Australian Open semifinal match against Scotland's Andy Murray

NEW RECORD BIG WIN IN DIME TIME DeMar DeRozan floats by Robin Lopez of the New York Knicks during Thursday night's game at the Air Canada Centre. The newly minted all-star tied fellow all-star Kyle Lowry for Raptors top scorer with 26 points. The 103-93 win was the Raptors' 10th in a row, good for a new franchise record. The previous franchise mark of nine was established from March 22 to April 9, 2002. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tenacious in Toronto

NBA

Raptors' No. 10 named all-star before 10th straight win

Separate conversations with NBA executives over the past 10 days yielded almost identical comments when the focus turned to the ever-evolving talents of DeMar DeRozan.

"If he's a consistent three-pointer shooter, he's James Harden," both the executives said, referencing the Houston Rockets' all-star guard who was league MVP runner-up last season.

An NBA player went further.

"Better than Harden — DeMar plays defence."

That is the rarefied air occupied by the Raptors guard who was voted to his second Eastern Conference all-star team Thursday night.

The 26-year-old DeRozan, also an all-star in 2014, joins Chicago's Jimmy Butler, Miami's Chris Bosh, Detroit's Andre Drummond, Washington's John Wall, Boston's Isaiah Thomas and Atlanta's Paul Millsap as reserves on the East team for the Feb. 14 game at the Air Canada Centre.

Draymond Green and Klay Thompson of Golden State, Anthony Davis of New Orleans, Chris Paul of the L.A. Clippers, DeMarcus Cousins of Sacramento, LaMarcus Aldridge of San Antonio and Harden were voted by coaches to the Western Conference.

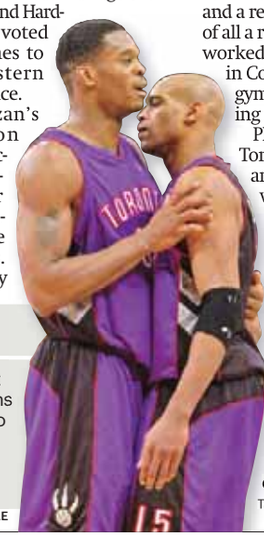
DeRozan's selection was basically a no-brainer for conference coaches. Not only is he in the top 10 in the NBA in scoring and free-throw attempts per game, he has helped Toronto take a grip on second place in the East. DeRozan is the Raptors' longest-serving player.

"Some guys, a few guys, have bailed," coach Dwane Casey said before the Raptors beat the New York Knicks for their 10th straight win Thursday. "He stuck with it, he's a loyal young man. He loves the city, loves the organization, loves his teammates. I think this is a testament to that and a reward for that. And most of all a reward for how hard he's worked, those hot afternoons in Compton, his high school gym down there, and working is paying off."

Playing an all-star game in Toronto along with friend and teammate Kyle Lowry will be special.

"I know sometimes we want more, expect more — and we do want more and expect more — but I would say that we're going in the right direction," Casey said. We've got something good going here with the Raptor program and again it's trending — in Twitter terms — it's trending in the right direction."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



GETTY IMAGES FILE

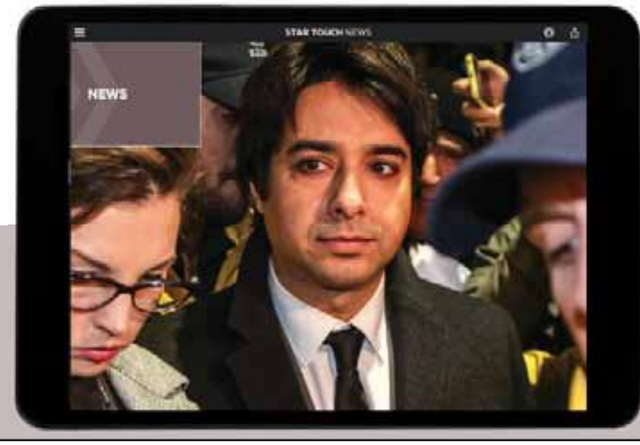
RARE PAIRS

This is the first time in Raptors history that teammates have been voted, either by fans or coaches, into the all-star game. Antonio Davis, left, and Vince Carter represented the Raptors in 2001 but Davis was picked as an injury replacement for Theo Ratliff.

TOMORROW

GHOMESHI TRIAL

The former Q host's sex assault trial starts next week. Tomorrow, Toronto Star Touch recaps the story that started a national conversation about consent and the abuse of power. In-depth coverage of the scandal that engulfed the CBC star, tomorrow in Star Touch.



TORONTO STAR TOUCH

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All-star weekend loses some sparkle

NHL

Caps, Hawks pull their captains from showcase

A one-game, slap-on-the-wrist suspension isn't enough to stop NHL teams from keeping their banged-up players out of all-star weekend.

The league said Thursday that Chicago captain Jonathan Toews won't participate in all-star festivities in Nashville after he left a game this week with an illness. That came one day after the Capitals' Alex Ovechkin pulled out of all-star weekend with a lower-body injury that the team said has been bothering him since November.

Ovechkin and Toews by rule are suspended for the first game after the all-star break, the same punishment the Pittsburgh Penguins accepted last year with Sidney Crosby. The NHL's rule was first used in 2009 against Detroit Red Wings stars Nicklas Lidstrom and Pavel Datsyuk, and now it has been levied against five of the league's top players.

More teams are opting to play it safe.

"We had to make a conscious decision on that," Washington coach Barry Trotz said. "That's the rules. You've seen other teams make that decision. I was out West, and Detroit's made that decision a few times. The ultimate goal for us is to go deeper than we did last year, so sometimes you have to make those decisions. We made it. And we'll just deal with it."

Ovechkin and Toews have each appeared at a handful of all-star games, and the price of missing a Feb. 2 game is insignificant compared with potential long-term ramifications.

Blackhawks physician Michael Terry said Toews left Chicago's game Tuesday with an illness and was symptomatic again Thursday, so he believes "rest over the break is most important for him to properly recover and be fully healthy heading into the rest of the regular season."

The Capitals are atop the NHL standings as the best team in the Eastern Conference, and the defending Stanley Cup-champion Blackhawks are the best in the West. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonathan Toews, bottom left, and Alex Ovechkin, top left, will not play in the all-star tournament despite being prominently displayed outside of Nashville's Bridgestone Arena.
MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Scott said NHL again tried to get him to quit event

John Scott, the career journeyman enforcer who was surprisingly voted into the NHL all-star game by fans, said he got a call from someone at the league who tried to talk him out of playing in the showcase Sunday.

According to Scott, someone with the NHL asked him: "Do you think this is something your kids would be proud of?" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flames D-man suspended for hit on linesman

Calgary Flames defenceman Dennis Wideman has been suspended indefinitely pending a hearing for checking and knocking down linesman Don Henderson on Wednesday night.

Wideman will have a hearing Tuesday with the NHL's department of hockey operations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENNIS

Serena on quite a roll Down Under

When Serena Williams plays as well as she did in the semi-finals of the Australian Open, there's little an opponent can do to challenge her. Even one who's soon to be ranked No. 3 in the world, just two places behind her.

"I was just standing there kind of watching her play," the fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska said after her 6-0, 6-4 drubbing by Williams on Thursday. "There was just no mistake. Unbelievable serve. Everything, she was going for it. I couldn't do much. Not at all, actually."

It's been a familiar feeling among the players Williams has brushed aside on the way to the final, her seventh at Melbourne Park. She's been so dominant at the Australian Open this year, in fact, that she's reached the final without losing a set — something she's never achieved in 15 previous appearances.

Serena Williams
GETTY IMAGES

She has dropped just 26 games in six matches, a number she has bettered just four times at the Grand Slams in her career.

This is an ominous sign for Williams' opponent on Saturday, Angelique Kerber, who is in her first Grand Slam final. Williams will be aiming for her 22nd major title, tying her with another German, Steffi Graf.

"I will go out there, try to enjoy my first final, try to beat Serena," Kerber said. "I must play my best tennis to have a chance." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"How can you say she's not the greatest of all time when she plays like this? Chris Evert

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RECIPE Egg Pizza

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

And just when you're ready to tell us there's nothing in your fridge and you have to order in: boom, a breakfast-for-dinner pizza you can whip up in minutes!

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 2 pitas
- 1 cup passata (or tomato or pizza sauce)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups mozzarella, grated
- 1/4 cup crisply fried bacon, crumbled
- Few leaves of basil
- 2 eggs

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F.

2. Place the pitas on a baking sheet. Pour tomato sauce on pitas and spread it around. Leave a little edge clear of sauce all the way around.

3. Sprinkle your cheese on each pita and push it slightly out the edges so you make a nest for your egg.

4. Sprinkle basil and the bacon all around the edge of your cheese nest. Gently crack an egg in the middle. Slide the cookie sheet carefully into the oven. Bake for about 15 to 20 minutes, depending on how done you like your eggs.

5. Use a spatula to move your egg pizza to a cutting board where you'll cut each pizza into four. Serve with slices of avocado, sour cream and a bit of salsa. Enjoy!

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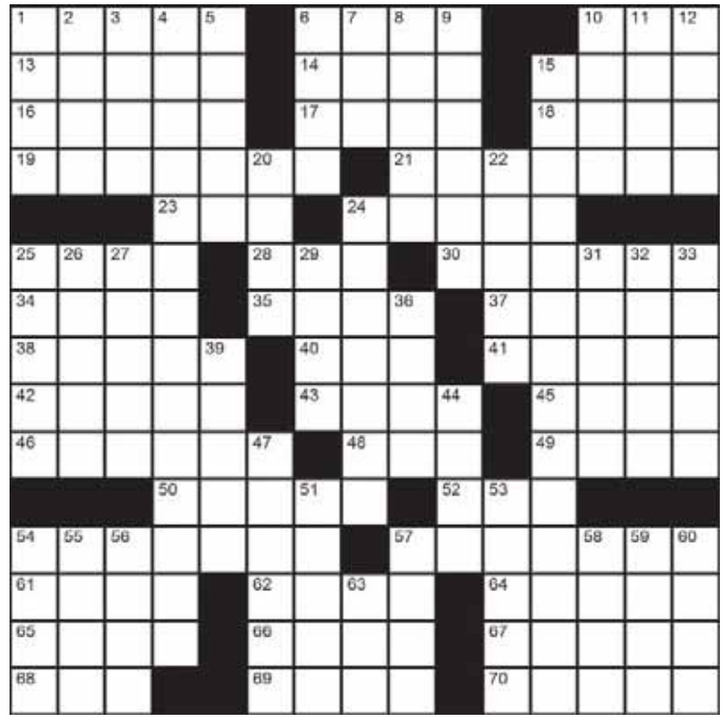
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. _ Current, Saskatchewan
6. Luke Skywalker mentor
10. Soak through
13. Weakly
14. Authentic
15. 1978 suspenseful movie for Canadian actress Genevieve Bujold, co-starring Michael Douglas
16. "It just doesn't _ _..." (Detective's observation)
17. Oooh's friend
18. Dismounted
19. Trailblazer
21. Here Comes the Bride! Engage, 1800s-style
23. John _ (Steppenwolf's lead singer)
24. Last
25. The North _
28. _ of corn
30. "Runaway Train": 1993 hit for Soul _
34. Secondhand
35. Batch
37. Secret chest
38. This stuff
40. Three Dog Night hit
41. Gourmand
42. Electronics whiz [var. sp.]
43. Neutral tone
45. And others, briefly: 2 wds.
46. The Earth's largest desert
48. Female octopus
49. Singer/guitarist Mr. Feliciano
50. Sailor collar blouse
52. Freezer stuff
54. Artist's 'eggy' painting
57. Traveller's brief layover: 2 wds.
61. Spread-for-bread
62. _ S. Rombauer (Joy of Cooking author)
64. Basketry fibre
65. Varied mixture
66. Achievement
67. Celebrated
68. Actor Mr. Watanabe
69. Forest's one-of-some
70. Skiers are happy when it does this outside

DOWN
1. Switch
2. Sort of streambed
3. _-European (Language family)
4. Bit of "Beauty School Dropout" from Grease: "... missed your midterms and _ _."
5. _ _ personality
6. 2016, for one
7. Mozart opera, L'_ del Cairo
8. Abu _ (United Arab Emirates capital)
9. Goddess of The Parthenon
10. Alone
11. Fail to mention
12. Route
15. Canadian singer playing #24-Down in FOX's "Grease: Live" musical production on January 31st: 3 wds.
20. Peepers
22. Food's flavour
24. As per #4-Down and #15-Down, role in Grease
25. Golf taps
26. "Romeo and Juliet" (1968) actor Milo
27. Bloodsucker
29. Succulent plant
31. Friday game in Canada, _ Max
32. Places for irises
33. Mr. Haggard of country tunes
36. Are, no more
39. Hawk's habitation, variantly
44. Condo purchase
47. Undirected
51. "Hey! I bet you can't..." sayer
53. Hairdos
54. Removed
55. She, in Quebec City
56. Chow _ (Takeout dish)
57. Satisfy
58. Sgt. Snorkel's dog
59. Went by plane
60. Gov. workers
63. Daisy _ (Li'l Abner's beloved)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Why do you feel that someone is watching you? Is it because you have a guilty conscience? You may have done something wrong and think others can tell just by looking at you. But they can't, so stop worrying!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Don't make a big deal out of a trivial issue. In the larger scheme of things it's not important. Life is a game and not to be taken too seriously.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You may be tempted to cut corners in order to get yourself an advantage. If you succeed you won't feel good about yourself. And if you don't your rivals will take delight in your embarrassment at being caught.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Do you feel lucky? The planets warn that your feelings may not be the best guide to reality, err on the side of caution today. To put it bluntly: if you gamble you will most likely lose.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Some people enjoy making a drama out of a crisis but you don't have to do likewise. No matter what happens, don't overreact. Stay calm and stay in control of your emotions. Someone needs to keep their head.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It is never easy for you to hold up your hand and admit that you made a mistake but you must do so today. No one expects you to be perfect, so why do you expect it of yourself?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone is giving you a hard time is because they are under the impression that you can be pushed around. No matter what created that impression you must uncreate it. Give them a taste of their own medicine.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have a tendency to get emotional over little things and that tendency is now heightened. Try not to overreact — no more than usual anyway!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You get what you want more often than not but sometimes it pays to let others take the lead. There are a lot of pitfalls on the path you have chosen to take. Let others go first so it's not you who falls down them!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Might never makes right and you will make it your business to see that the good guys come out on top. Be guided by your principles and never allow yourself to be bought or bullied.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If each step forward results in two steps back it might be wise to take the hint and stay put. You don't have to be on the go every hour of every day, so slow down and enjoy where you are.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to take a risk today but that could be dangerous. What you think is your subconscious mind guiding you is in fact nothing more than wishful thinking.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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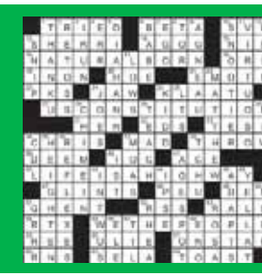

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2	7	1	6	9	5	3	8	4
4	1	2	9	7	6	5	3	8
7	5	6	3	2	8	4	1	9
9	3	8	1	5	4	7	6	2

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